plants are supplied at concessional price.

(iv) Requirement of an industrial licence for setting up a fertiliser plant has been dispensed with.

(v) Investment in the fertiliser sector is encouraged, inter-alia, through concessions on supplies of capital goods for the fertiliser industry in the form of import duty exemption and deemed export benefits, as well as interest rate concession on Long-term loans raised by fertiliser units.

(vi) The rate of special concession on indigenously manufactured DAP has been enhanced w.e.f. 6.7.1996 from Rs.1000/- per tonne to Rs.3000/- per tonne. Proportionate increase in the rate of concession has been allowed in respect of other complex fertilisers. In respect of SSP, the rate of special concession has been enhanced from Rs.340/- per tonne to Rs.500/- per tonne.

Besides, the central public/cooperative sector fertiliser units have adopted the following strategy to augment the production and availability of fertilisers:

(i) Expansion/retrofitting/revamping of existing fertiliser plants;

(ii) Overcoming the constraints in the availability of natural gas by setting up naptha-based fertiliser plants and installing dual fuel/ feedstock facilities in the existing plants and projects under implementation;

(iii) Setting up of joint venture projects in countries having abundant and cheap raw material resources.

Budgetary support is being provided to the sick fertiliser undertakings in the central public sector to enable them to sustain their production.

गुजरात के विश्वविद्यालयों के लिए विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग से सहायता

286. श्री गोपाल सिंह जी० सोलंकी: क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) गत तीन वर्षों में गुजरात के किन-किन विश्वविद्यालयों को विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग द्वारा कुल कितनी वित्तीय सहायता मंजूर की गई।

(ख) इनमें कुल कितने शिक्षक, कर्मचारी तथा छात्र हैं,

(ग) क्या ये विश्वविद्यालय अपेक्षित स्तर की उच्च शिक्षा में अपना योगदान कर रहे हैं,

(घ) क्या इन विश्वविद्यालयों के शिक्षण स्तर के संबंध में कोई शिकायत प्राप्त हुई है, और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो उस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय के शिक्षा विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुही राम सैकिया): (क) से (ङ) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

Protection of Peacocks

287. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether any survey has been conducted regarding the number of peacocks in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that this species is facing gradual extinction due to a mystery disease and highly concentrated pesticides;

(c) the details regarding the regions where this bird is found in large number;

(d) whether any action plan has been made to protect the peacocks;

(e) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a Peacock Sanctuary in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN

PRASAD NISHAD): (a) No countrywide survey has been conducted to assess the population of peacocks.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) While the peacock is distributed almost throughout the country, it is more common and abundant in Gujarat and Rajasthan.

(d) Although no specific action plan has been drawn up to protect the peacock, it is afforded full protection from hunting and commercial exploitation under Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. It is also our National bird.

(e) and (f) No such proposal is under consideration of this Ministry. The peacock and its habitat is also protected in a number of sanctuaries in the country. Sanctuaries are declared and managed by the States and Union Territories under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

Decision taken by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan Board of Governors

288. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH:
SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:
SHRI RAGHAVJI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Board of Governors of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan had met on the 6th, 7th November, 1996; and

(b) if so, the details of the decisions arrived at in the said meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) The Board of Governors of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan in its meeting held on 8th November, 1996 approved among other things amendment to rules 19(9) & 16 and reemployment of teachers of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan retiring on superannuation on or after 30th November, of the year upto 31st March next year, decentralisation of disbursement of CPF/GPF advances and Part-final withdrawals at regional level, cadre review of Group 'D' employees, and amendment of recruitment rules for Education Officers.

Non-Price recommendations in respect of differents Crops

289. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices has also been making non-price recommendations, apart from the price recommendations in respect of different crops;

(b) if so, details of the non-price recommendations in respect of major agricultural and plantation crops, and the objectives thereof, during the last five years;

(c) the specific action taken by the Government on various non-price recommendations of the Committee, and the results thereof; and

(d) in case no action has been taken on some of the non-price recommendations, or if some of the recommendations have not been accepted, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The non-price recommendatons are made by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) in its reports on price policy for various crops, in order to ensure effective implementation of price recommendations as well as better price realisation by the farmers. The non-price recommendations suggestive in nature have been referred to the concerned Ministries/Departments/Divisions for taking appropriate action. These